

Allowance Information

(Below are questions that previous incoming interns had concerning their move to Hawai'i and the Graduate Medical Office response to these questions. Please review the following to see if your question has been answered before.)

Cost of Living Allowance

Question: Are we entitled to a cost of living allowance (COLA) in addition to BAH while in Hawai'i?

Response: Yes, you will also get a cost of living allowance (COLA) in addition to your BAH. Last year's COLA ranged from \$462/month for unaccompanied personnel to \$691/month for accompanied personnel with 5 dependents. Check out this [Web site on military pay](#). It includes a link to a COLA calculator. Note: It won't calculate COLA for a date in the future.

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH).

BAH is an allowance to offset the cost of housing when you do not receive or accept government-provided housing. (You are not required to accept government-provided housing. You do not get BAH if you accept Government housing.) Your BAH depends upon your location, pay grade and whether you have dependents. BAH rates are set by surveying the cost of rental properties in each geographic location. The rates are established such that members in each pay grade, independent of location, pay approximately the same out-of-pocket costs. Therefore, BAH rates in high-cost areas will be much greater than those in low-cost areas. Needless to say, Hawaii is a high cost area.

The following table was derived from a [BAH rate query](#).

2006 Basic Allowance for Housing Rates	
Grade / Rank:	CPT / 0-3
Zip Code:	96859
Military Housing Area:	HI 408 – Honolulu: County, HI
Monthly Allowance:	
With dependents:	\$ 2666.00
Without dependents:	\$ 2198.00

Question: Sorry to bother you again. But will we receive our BAH when we arrive or not until July 1st? Sorry if this has been answered somewhere else but I couldn't find it.

Response:

BAH is included in your initial paycheck which will be issued 1 July. But you also have the option of requesting an advance in pay upon your arrival.

Here is a nice website with links that explain [potential entitlements](#). Based on the information on this website you may be entitled up to three month's of your basic pay in advance. (Note: Soldiers are frequently discouraged by their Commands from requesting more than one month's advance pay.) And it may be possible to request advance BAH. You may also be entitled to a dislocation allowance (DLA). You may inquire about these entitlements upon arrival.

Dislocation Allowance (DLA)

Question: Am I entitled to DLA when moving from my home of record to my first duty station?

Response: By law there is no [DLA entitlement](#) when the PCS is from your home (or the place where you entered active duty) to your first permanent duty station (PDS) unless your dependents actually move in connection with the PCS.

Question: I was wondering how we go about getting our DLA. Is that also going to be done on the 2nd? I know that for an O-3 with dependents it is \$2344.13. If we can get that soon, then we might not have to take out a pay advance. Please let me know.

Response: It remains my understanding that you are not scheduled to be paid any of your entitlements until 1 July unless you request an advance in pay. However, I will reconfirm this with the Defense Military Pay Office.

Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA)

This allowance is authorized to partially reimburse military members upon initial arrival to overseas duty stations for expenses incurred while occupying temporary quarters or lodging. It is payable for specific periods, generally not to exceed 60 days, while awaiting assignment of Government Quarters or other permanent living accommodations. If you are entering active duty TLA will not take effect until the report date on your orders.

The amount of TLA that you receive will depend on how many family members accompany you, where you are staying and what it costs, and whether kitchen facilities are available. TLA is comprised of two parts—a lodging component and an allowance for your meals and incidental expenses. The daily amount you receive for lodging is limited to the actual lodging costs—you do not get to keep any unused portion. The amount for meals and incidental expenses is a set daily rate that is paid to you. The Defense Military Pay Office at Ft. Shafter, Bldg 123, telephone (808) 438-1875, will calculate how much TLA you receive. If any of your children are over 12 years of age

you will receive additional money for meals, usually another \$9 to \$10 per day for each child over 12.

Some TLA hotels have kitchen facilities. If you decide to stay at one of these facilities the amount of TLA that you receive for meals will be reduced. However, note that the lodging portion is increased to accommodate higher lodging rates.

The TLA you get is in addition to the BAH that you will receive. BAH starts the day that you report to Tripler.

The Army Hawaii Family Housing Division will offer families' on-post quarters very quickly if available in order to minimize the amount of TLA the Government has to pay. You will still draw your housing allowance (BAH). In the "old" days, the Army did not pay BAH when soldiers or families were drawing TLA. But that changed a while ago.

Question: One question for you just to clarify, if I will be accompanied but opt not to take on-post housing, will I still be granted the 60 days TLA (or TLA until I find an apartment)?

Response: TLA stops once you turn down an offer of on-post housing. So the answer in this case is "no", you will not be granted TLA until you find a place to live off post.

Question: You mentioned that unaccompanied interns would be granted 10 days of TLA authorization at central in-processing. How long are we allowed TLA (maximum) in the case that we don't find permanent housing within 10 days?

Response: 60 days.

Question: I'm not really sure what TLA is... if it's extra funds in addition to BAH, or just an authorization of some sort. Will we be completely reimbursed for any TLA hotel stay, regardless of the price? or do we just pay for it with our BAH money?

Response: TLA is in addition to BAH and is an allowance designed to offset the extra costs a service member incurs while living in temporary lodging. You get both allowances at the same time and both start the day that you report. **Note:** If you arrive on 31 May your expenses will likely be offset by an additional allowance for travel expenses, not TLA. The amount you receive for a TLA hotel stay depends on whether or not you have a statement of non-availability from The Inn at Schofield Barracks. If you do, then your entire lodging at a TLA hotel should be covered by your TLA as long as the hotel confirmed that it would only bill the TLA rate. Otherwise, you will end up footing the difference.

Question: I am the intern who is going to live at home with my parents in Honolulu while we are allowed TLA (i.e. avoid the hotel/lodging headaches). I am still planning on collecting the per diem allowed through TLA. **1)** Do I qualify for the per diem listed

as "with kitchen" (about \$30/day) or "without kitchen" (about \$60/day)? **2)** Do I need to fill out additional paperwork to receive the per diem since I won't be staying in Army lodging, or do I receive it automatically when my TLA begins? **3)** You mentioned a mandatory appointment at Schofield for all interns needing to extend their TLA past one (1) week. Can we arrange this appointment after we arrive in Hawai'i and begin in-processing? It's difficult to do anything not knowing our schedule for orientation.

Response: Our Defense Military Pay Office told us that you would be paid the "without kitchen" rate. Any processing of TLA will be taken care of after you arrive and there should be no additional paperwork other than a few forms that everyone requesting TLA has to fill out. There should be adequate time in the schedule for you to travel to Schofield Barracks for any administrative requirements that you need to take care of related to extending your TLA. All of this will have to be done after you arrive and begin in-processing.

Question: I am from Honolulu and my whole family is there. I was planning on staying with my parents during the TLA period while I looked for housing. Will I still be eligible for the per diem even if I am not requesting TLA at a hotel? If I am not eligible for per diem, then I will just book TLA. What do you recommend?

Response: You will be entitled to the per diem for meals. So I would stay with your family as long as you can tolerate them! :-)

Question: I know that you have received a lot of questions related to this topic, but just to be clear.... We can receive TLA for up to 60 days, but if on-base housing is available (which it most likely will be), TLA will expire immediately. Correct?

Response: Yes. It expires the day that you should be able to occupy your quarters. You are given a maximum of five business days to move into quarters but TLA would be terminated earlier if the Housing Office is able to deliver loaner furniture sooner.

This page was last updated on 26 April 2007.